



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/26/2015
Time: 11:00 AM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0821 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Amends or repeals provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, for housekeeping and other purposes.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 821. The Department recognizes the importance of early childhood education, as well as its impact upon our children's future outcomes and the state's economic growth.



Thursday, February 26, 2015

Relating to House Bill 821
Testifying in Strong Support

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **strongly supports HB821 Relating to Early Childhood Education**, which amends or repeals provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, for housekeeping and other purposes.

This bill is an important housekeeping measure that clearly defines early childhood education as “a developmentally appropriate early childhood development and education program from birth until the time they enter kindergarten.” The definition is good because it not only sets the boundaries between the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and the Department of Education, but also because it ensures the term is used consistently throughout the statute.

It also clarifies that EOEL has the authority to expend federal funds, which will allow it to leverage federal grants and other moneys for the purpose of early childhood education.

For these reasons, we support HB821 and urge your support for its passage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Stephanie Ohigashi
Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hawai'i

And The Legislation Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



February 26, 2015

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Support for HB 821: RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**
Hearing: February 26, 2015 at 11 AM, Conference Room 308

Good Beginnings Alliance is in support of HB 821, an important housekeeping measure relating to early childhood education.

This measure will correct two critical issues:

- 1) It defines "early childhood education" as "a developmentally appropriate early childhood development program for children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten." This is important to ensure proper boundaries between the role of Executive Office on Early Learning and the role of Department of Education for K-12 instruction.
- 2) It clearly defines that the Executive Office on Early Learning has the authority to use and expend federal funds for the purpose of early childhood education.

These housekeeping measures are critical to insure that the Executive Office on Early Learning is able to function effectively and serve our youngest children.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge members of the committee to pass this bill.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

February 26, 2015

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB821, which amends or repeals provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, for housekeeping and other purposes.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

We support all the changes being proposed in HB821 relating to early education, in particular, the change in the definition of "early childhood education" to mean a developmentally appropriate early childhood development and education program for children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten. We understand that currently there are some definitions that say from birth to age eight, which becomes confusing because it overlaps with the Kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) system. The change would allow clarity in statute, and allow for more efficient and effective handling of early education programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
Center for Civic Education
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
*Good Beginnings Alliance
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
*Hawaii State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
*Kaho'omiki
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Finance

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW
Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 308**

Testimony in support of HB821, Relating to Early Childhood Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB821, which is an important housekeeping measure relating to early childhood education. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including low-income families with young children in the home.

HB821 will address two critical issues:

- Defines "early childhood education" as "a developmentally appropriate early childhood development program for children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten." This is important to ensure proper boundaries between the role of Executive Office on Early Learning and the role of the Department of Education for K-12 instruction.
- Clearly defines that the Executive Office on Early Learning has the authority to use and expend federal funds for the purpose of early childhood education.

Once again, PHOCUSED urges your support for this bill. These measures are critical to ensure that the Executive Office on Early Learning functions effectively to serve Hawaii's keiki. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at admin@phocused-hawaii.org.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 11:00 A.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 821 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 821, which amends or repeals provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, for housekeeping and other purposes.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber strongly believes that focusing on early childhood is critical because brain development takes place by age five. We believe it is imperative to begin investing early in a child's life, when the brain is in this state of tremendous growth potential. In 2008, the Hawaii Economic Benefits Study of early education for Hawai'i showed that for every \$1 Hawai'i invests in a quality four-year early learning program, the state will receive a return of \$4.20. This is not only about return of investment, but in providing for our employees and their children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 26, 2015

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair of the House Committee on Finance,
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: GG Weisenfeld
Wimmie Wong Lui

RE: H.B. No. 821, Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance:

I, along with Wimmie Wong Lui, am presenting testimony regarding H.B. No. 821, Relating to Early Childhood Education, the purpose of which is to amend or repeal provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, for housekeeping and other purposes.

We are both private citizens who are interested in advancing early learning in our state.

This bill creates a definition of “early childhood education” that is consistent with the early learning system the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is tasked with developing pursuant to Section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The bill ensures the term “early childhood education” is used consistently throughout statute.

H.B. 821 also clarifies that the mission of EOEL is the education of children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten, while the mission of the Hawaii Department of Education is that of children from kindergarten through grade 12.

We are therefore in support of H.B. No. 821. We urge the committee to pass this bill, moving it forward for further consideration.

Thank you.

GG Weisenfeld
193 Pauahilani Place
Kailua HI 96734

Wimmie Wong Lui
724 Prospect Street
Honolulu HI 96813

LATE

Testimony To
The House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 25, 2015
11:00 pm
Room 309

Re: HB 821 – Related to Early Childhood Education

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I am a recently retired Head of an independent school in Honolulu which has a pre-K program. Over the past 10 years, I have served as chair of the Early Learning Task Force, the Early Learning Council and the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB). Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 821, A Bill for an Act Relating to Early Childhood Education which amends or repeals various provisions of chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The ELAB urges the Committee to move this bill forward. It defines early childhood education as both developmentally appropriate and covering the period from birth until kindergarten entry aligning with the mission of the Executive Office on Early Learning and distinguishing the EOEL mission from that of the Department of Education which addresses K – 12 education. The term “developmentally appropriate” will need definition and the EOEL would be in the best position to do so.

In addition, HB 821 allows for the use and expending of federal funds for early childhood education by the Executive Office on Early Education. Both provisions help to clarify the place of early learning in an overall state-wide system.

Robert G. Peters, EdD
Chair, Early Learning Advisory Board